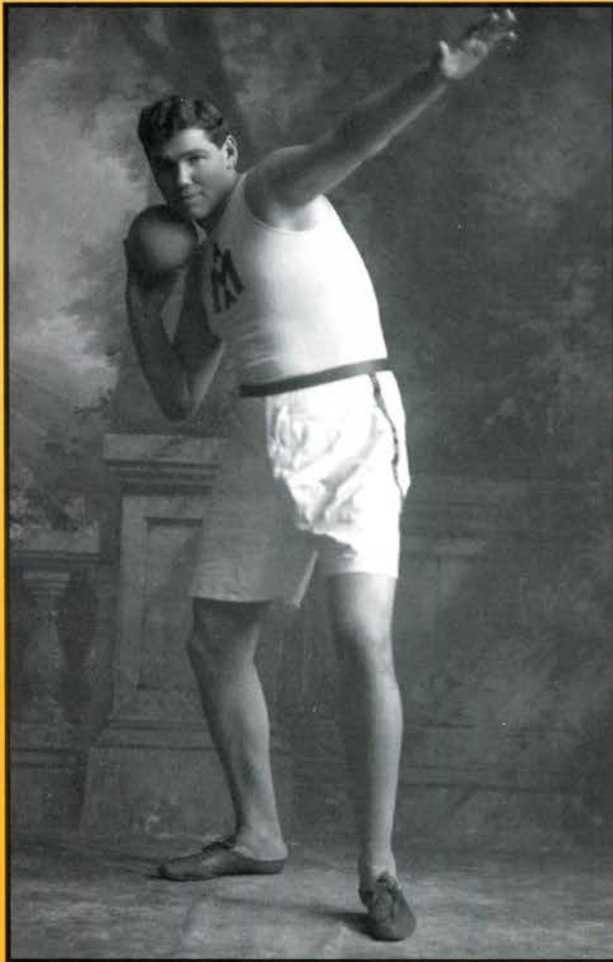




RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

AUTUMN 2006 • ISSUE 94

An Official Publication of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society



Ralph Waldo Rose *A Gentle Giant Who Cast a Long and Enduring Shadow*

by Daniel F. Murley Page 10



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***An Oral History with
Kate MacMurray***

From an Interview with Holly Hoods Page 14



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RUSSIAN RIVER RECORDER

*The Official Publication of the Healdsburg
 Museum and Historical Society*

221 Matheson Street
P. O. Box 952
Healdsburg, CA 95448
(707) 431-3325

In this our Autumn issue we are pleased to welcome two new contributing writers - Raymond L. Owen, a genealogist from Santa Rosa and Kay Schmidt Robinson, a member of Healdsburg's pioneer Phillips family and a devoted Healdsburg Museum volunteer, as were her mother, Patricia Phillips Schmidt, and distant cousin, Major Phillips.

Raymond Owen in his role as a genealogist was using the museum's extensive research facilities when he came across the information about world heavyweight champion Robert Fitzsimmons who used the Skaggs Springs Resort, located about 13 miles west of Healdsburg, as a training camp in the spring of 1902. Skaggs Springs, a destination resort founded by the Skaggs family in the 1880s, featured hot mineral waters. It was purchased by Peter J. Curtis in 1909 after his 4 year term as sheriff of San Francisco ended. The facility was operated by the Curtis family until 1943.

Our curator Daniel Murley has come up with a very interesting subject for his article - Ralph Waldo Rose who, Dan says, "cast a long and enduring shadow." Ralph Rose was a world champion who has long been remembered by Healdsburg even though his life was a short one, Rose is featured in Dan's newest exhibit, "A Golden Age of Healdsburg Sports" which you can visit now until November 26 in the Museum's Gallery.

Oral histories are always interesting and informative. Our newest, featuring the daughter of two famous movie stars, is a delight and fun to read. Our research curator Holly Hoods, we are certain, must have enjoyed interviewing Kate MacMurray, as the end result indicates. And we think you will enjoy reading about life on the ranch with Kate's parents, Fred MacMurray and June Haver.

We'll be working on our Winter 2006 issue during the next two months and hope to have it distributed shortly after the holidays. In the meantime we are also working on our Spring 2007 issue which will feature special articles in celebration of the City of Healdsburg's 150th anniversary.

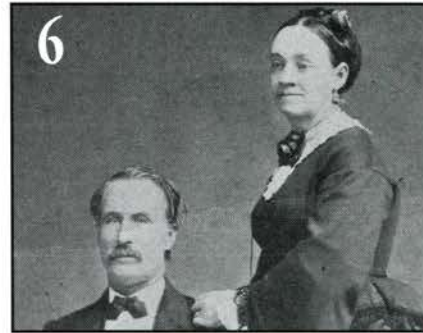
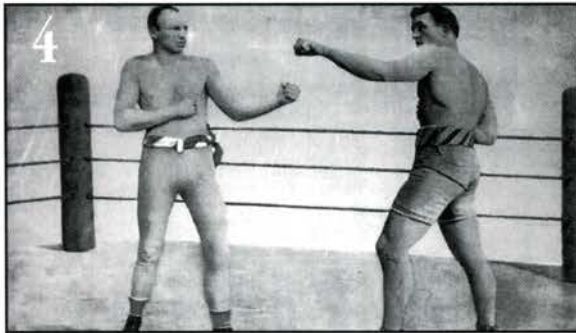
Arnold Santucci
 Editor



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6. D.D. Phillips' Tzabaco Rancho 150th Anniversary

by Kay Schmidt Robinson

An interesting and informative history of the Rancho and the Phillips family by a member of the family, many of whom still reside here.

10. Ralph Waldo Rose, A Gentle Giant Who Cast a Long and Enduring Shadow

by Daniel F. Murley

Our curator Daniel Murley recalls with affection the many athletic accomplishments of world champion Ralph Rose, one of Healdsburg's four champions honored with a monument in the town Plaza Square.

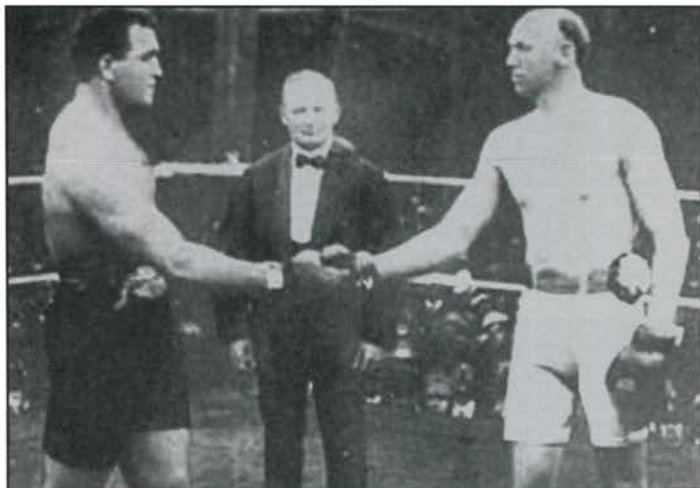
14. "Love Affair With the Land:" An Oral History with Kate MacMurray

from an Interview with Holly Hoods

Kate MacMurray, daughter of two movie stars - Fred MacMurray and June Haver - recalls very fond memories of the family life on the MacMurray's ranch southwest of Healdsburg.

EXCITEMENT AT SKAGGS SPRING RESORT

by Raymond L. Owen



James Jeffries and Robert Fitzsimmons flanking referee, Ed Graney.
Photo from San Francisco Examiner, 26 July 1902

From May to July 1902, a great deal of attention was focused on Skaggs Springs Resort and heavyweight contender Robert Fitzsimmons who had selected it as his training camp preparatory to a title fight with James Jeffries in San Francisco. Fitzsimmons had held the heavyweight championship from 17 March 1897 when he defeated Jim Corbett at Carson City, Nevada, until 9 June 1899 when he lost to Jeffries at Coney, Island, New York. The San Francisco bout was a rematch for the world championship.

As early as 18 May 1902, a newspaper account was published that Robert Fitzsimmons, after a visit to "J.F. Mulgrew's popular resort", declared that if the bout with Jeffries was arranged in San Francisco, Skaggs Springs would be his training camp, adding that he had "spent two of the happiest days of my life there." The fight was set for San Francisco and indeed Skaggs Springs Resort became Fitzsimmons' training site. This generated a great deal of local interest and visits to the resort increased appreciably. Whether or not John F. Mulgrew had promoted the resort as a training camp is not known, however, he would clearly reap the benefit of additional visitors and guests. At the time, rates were advertised at two dollars a day or twelve dollars a week with one dollar and fifty cents round trip stage fare from Geyserville. An article published 25 May 1902 predicted "many people will be attracted there [Skaggs Springs Resort] to watch the big pugilist

prepare himself for the encounter." The prediction proved true and Bob Fitzsimmons also proved to be a friendly, affable man quickly taken to by the residents of Healdsburg and vicinity.

During his training, Fitzsimmons, along with his wife and son, also had a pleasant time at the resort and he "put in several happy hours whipping the streams in the neighborhood for speckled beauties." He made several visits to Healdsburg and on one occasion demonstrated his skill as a maker of horseshoes at Otterman's blacksmith shop in front of a crowd of spectators. His skill at making horseshoes was also demonstrated in Geyserville where he fashioned a number of them at Vaughn's blacksmith shop, prompting a reporter to write "whether in jest or not...there were a great many horses in the neighborhood who needed just such a shoe as Fitz made."

On 16 June 1902, Fitzsimmons, wife and son rode in the Skaggs Springs stage in a parade to the ballpark in Healdsburg where, in addition to being a base umpire, he put on a three round sparring contest with his trainer between the top and bottom of the seventh inning. As an indication of his popularity, within a week of his arrival as Robert Fitzsimmons, he was referred to simply as "Fitz."

Fitzsimmons trained hard, with one account relating at 5:30 in the morning he set upon a ten mile run paced by his wife in a horse cart. On 20 July 1902, he departed Skaggs Springs Resort to complete his training at the Olympic Club in San Francisco. The championship bout was held 25 July 1902 in the pavilion at Fourteenth and Valencia Streets in San Francisco. Despite being thirteen years older than his opponent, Fitzsimmons was leading in the scoring until knocked out in the eighth round when he missed a mighty blow and Jeffries countered with a blow to the solar plexus followed by a left-right combination to the head. At the end, Jeffries, the victor, was "bleeding furiously from a deep gash over the left eye and [had] blood trickling from a smaller cut under the right optic and with the red fluid trickling down his breast from his mouth and nose" and barely able to stand. Clearly, "Fitz" had landed a number of telling blows. After recovering, Fitzsimmons announced, "Gentlemen, it is my last fight. Had I defeated my opponent I should have retired and presented him

Continued on page 5

Season of
1902

SKAGGS
HOT
SPRINGS

Sonoma
County
California

ONLY four and one-half hours from San Francisco, and but nine miles staging. The stage ride a most enjoyable feature of the trip. Perfectly equipped line. Fine hunting and well-stocked trout streams. Long distance telephone; daily mail and express. Darkroom for the convenience of photographers. Hot mineral water tub and plunge baths. Swimming and boating lake. Fine croquet grounds, shuffleboard, dancing platform, etc.

An unlimited round-trip ticket from San Francisco costs but \$5.50.



San Francisco
Office
SKAGGS
HOT SPRINGS
Room 121
Phelan Building
Telephone
Grant 118

1902 Skaggs Springs brochure, Healdsburg Museum collection.

with the championship." Following these comments, a great burst of cheering occurred. One would think that a similar bust of cheering was echoed in Healdsburg and vicinity for the affable fighter who had captured the attention and affection of the local citizenry. [RRR]

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Healdsburg Tribune, Healdsburg, CA, 19 June 1902.



Healdsburg Museum collection of a 1902 Skaggs Springs brochure.

D.D PHILLIPS' TZABACO RANCHO

150TH ANNIVERSARY

by Kay Schmidt Robinson

The year 2006 celebrates the 150th anniversary of the purchase of a portion of José German Piña's Tzabaco Rancho by Duvall Drake Phillips and his partner Samuel O. Heaton. Many of D. D.'s descendants continue to live in Dry Creek Valley, Healdsburg, and Sonoma County.

In January 1855 D. D. married Mary Carter Terry McCloud. She had come west with her husband William J. McCloud in 1852. After he died, she supported herself and her young son by operating a boardinghouse in or near Placerville.

In the fall of 1855, D. D. and his new partner (a former partner of Wm. McCloud), Samuel O. Heaton traveled to Sonoma County and attempted to buy a portion of the Tzabaco Rancho from the heirs of José German Piña. They were not willing to sell at that time. But in 1856, after a year of drought and crop-damaging fires, the Piñas agreed to sell to Sam and D. D.

Moving to Healdsburg with Mary's son William S. McCloud and their first-born Philip Walton, Mary and D. D. settled into the old adobe (6630 Dry Creek Rd.) to raise their young family. By 1867, six more children had been born, two dying in infancy. Also in 1867, Samuel and D. D. decided to dissolve their partnership and divided the property equally.

A Few Quick Facts

1843/May - D. D. Phillips marries Amelia Ann Kennedy in Missouri; D. D. and Amelia have two sons.

1843/Sept - José German Piña petitions the Mexican Government for 4 square leagues of land (about 17,000 acres) to be known as Tzabaco Rancho.

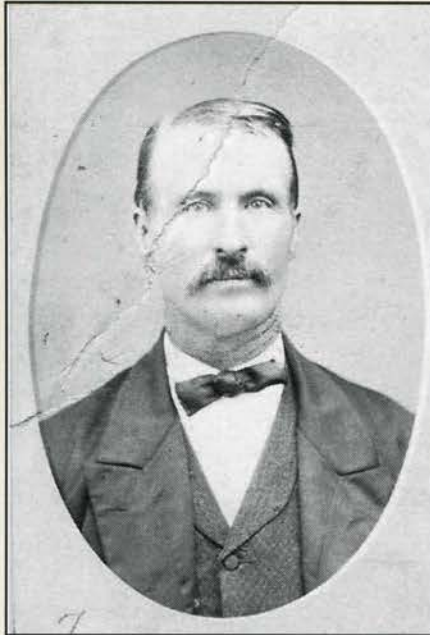
1847 - Amelia dies during the birth of their second son Gabriel Duvall.

1847-1848 - D. D. serves in the Mexican-American War.

1849 - D. D. arrives in Placerville with three cousins.

1855 - D. D. marries Mary Carter Terry McCloud in Placerville; D. D. and Mary have six sons and one daughter.

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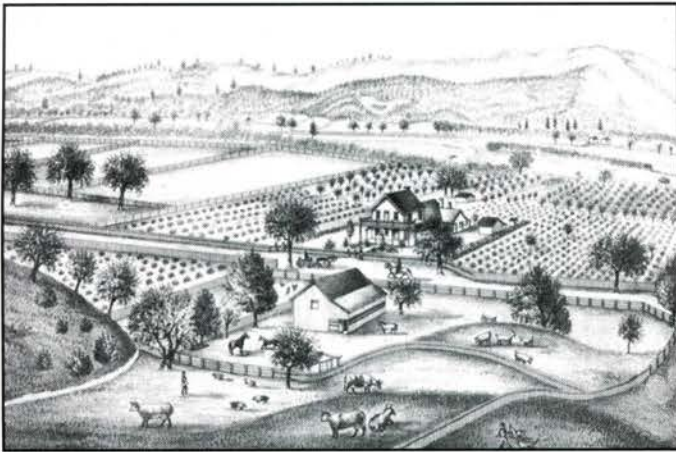
Duvall Drake and Mary Carter Terry Phillips

The Travels of D. D.

Duvall Drake (D.D.) Phillips, son of Gabriel and Fanny Cooper Phillips, was born on May 1st 1822, in Mason County, Kentucky. By the time he was 7, his family had moved to Missouri, first to Lincoln County and then to Pike County. After a six-month business trip to Kentucky for his father at the age of 20, he returned to Missouri and married Amelia Ann Kennedy in May 1843. In the next four years the family had grown with George Washington born in 1845 and Gabriel Duvall born in 1847, a day ending in tragedy as Amelia died in childbirth.

Despondent, D. D. left his young sons with his parents and enlisted in Company E, 3rd Regiment, Missouri Mounted Volunteers. Part of his duties included being dispatched as one of 28 men to accompany Kit Carson, who was a dispatch carrier to General Kearney in California. In Santa Fe, New Mexico he and other volunteers waited until the arrival of their respective commanders, after which they proceeded into Mexico and fought in the battle of Santa Cruz in the State of Chihuahua under the command of Sterling Price.

After the war ended in 1848 he returned to Missouri and headed west in the spring of 1849, hearing of the discovery of gold in California. He and three cousins arrived in Hangtown (Placerville) on September 1, 1849. He spent his time in the Salmon Falls and Weber Creek areas as a miner (unsuccessfully) and in the construction of dams, tunnels, canals, and flumes.



1855 - Tzabaco Rancho confirmed by Land Commission at 15,439 acres.

1856 - D. D. Phillips and SO Heaton sign deed for 1371/4 acres and the adobe in Dry Creek Valley for \$1730.45.

The Piñas and their Rancho Tzabaco

José German Piña was the son of a Mexican soldier, born at Mission San Francisco de Asís (Mission Dolores in San Francisco) in 1829. By the time he was 11 years old he was scouting for potential rancho land in the Russian River valley. At the perhaps not-so-tender age of 14, in September 1843 he made a successful petition to Governor Micheltorena in Monterey for a tract of 4 square leagues (about 17,000 acres) to be known as the Tzabaco Rancho.

The origin of the adobe which was at the heart of his new grant is not fully understood. One theory is that the adobe is, in fact, the fortification that General Mariano Vallejo caused to be established in 1833 "somewhere in the Russian River valley" - an outpost that lasted only a month. Supporting this idea is the fact that a cannon and several 2-pound cannon balls were found on the property during the early twentieth century. The conservative theory is that the adobe was built in 1843 by the Piña family as the headquarters of their new rancho.

When German, also known as "Chino" ("curly haired"), settled on his rancho his older brother José de Jesus and several other family members joined him. The diseño (map) which accompanied the grant identified the rio (Dry Creek), Rio Grande (Russian River), siembre (grain fields), and milpas (seeded field) among other notations.

One year later, in 1844, German's mother died and in 1847 German's father Lazaro was killed at the Battle of Cerro Gordo in Mexico under the leadership of Santiana. At eighteen years of

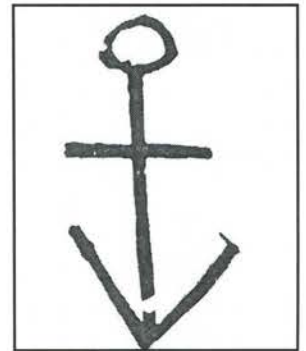
age in 1847, José German Piña died of unknown cause at Mission San Francisco de Solano in Sonoma. Everything German did seemed to belie his age - scouting for land, petitioning for rancho land, establishing the Tzabaco Rancho. Even his will spelled out his possessions, debts, and debtees - although just passing mention is made of his rancho. He even identified a trade for the horses to pull his hearse.

With increasing family debt by 1850, a portion of the rancho was sold at public auction. Squatters settled on other parts of their land. After the murder of German's brother Antonio in 1853, the remaining four brothers, for \$20,000 compensation, signed over their interest in the rancho to John Frisbie, an American entrepreneur who was acting as the attorney for the Piñas. However, the contract would not take effect for 5 years. The Land Commission spent the years 1852-1855 reviewing the validity of Tzabaco Rancho, which was finally confirmed at 15,439 acres.

In 1855 partners Samuel O. Heaton and Duvall Drake Phillips journeyed to Sonoma County to survey land for purchase. It is not known why they came specifically to Sonoma County. However, a close friend of D. D.'s from his Missouri and Army days was Sterling Coulter (later a prominent Sonoma County citizen) who had settled in the Santa Rosa area in 1851. Rebuffed by the Piñas in 1855, Sam and D. D. returned in October 1856 and successfully bought 1371/4 acres of the Piña's Tzabaco Rancho for \$1730.45.



Señal
Ear Clip



Fierro
Brand

D. D. Phillips of Dry Creek Valley

With his new wife, their first-born son Philip Walton and Mary's young son, William S. McCloud, D. D. began making a life and living in the Dry Creek Valley. They settled into the Piña Adobe and soon other children were born: Samuel Edmund (1857), Oscar Frederick (1858), Horace Hugh (1860), Henry (1861, died in infancy), Oliver Clarence (1863), and Mary (1867, also died in

infancy). Arriving in California in 1865 at age 18 was Gabriel Duvall, D. D.'s second son from his first marriage. Interestingly, all of D. D.'s sons except for his first born (maybe with the name George Washington Phillips that is understandable) went by their middle names: Duvall, Walton, Ed, Fred, Hugh, and Clarence.

In 1867, Phillips and Heaton divided their property in equal parcels of 68 acres, D. D. keeping the adobe and Heaton the more southerly portion. At the time of the 1856 purchase, the adobe was only a "fort", four walls, small portholes for windows, and a low-slung doorway hung with bear-skins. Remodeling was done in the 1860s by James William Terry, Mary Phillips' brother, who had been a ship's carpenter. The valley floor was then covered with large oaks and madrones. Grain was the main crop for many years. Around 1870 grapes were planted; in the 1880s, prunes.

Three of Duvall Drake's sons died young: Hugh in 1889, Duvall (a farmer in DCV) in 1890, and Clarence (a policeman in San Francisco) in 1901. George, D. D.'s eldest son, moved from Missouri to California in 1906, and became a Justice of the Peace and a well-known and respected community leader. After D. D.'s death in 1904 the property passed to his wife. Within a year of Mary's death in 1907, the three remaining "California" sons (Walton, Ed, and Fred), divided the property equally.

Gabriel Duvall "Duvall", the second son of D. D.'s first marriage, having moved to California in the 1860s, remained a farmer in the upper reaches of Dry Creek but died at age 45 at a health clinic in St. Helena. His descendants, the Somes, Watsons, Bells, and Clendenens remain in the valley, for the most part, still farming the land.

The oldest son Walton (by D.D.'s marriage to Mary) retained the center portion of the now-divided property, although he and his wife Mary Jane Miles left the area in their adult life and he became a station agent for the Southern (or Western) Pacific Railroad. During his absence it is assumed that the brothers of Walton farmed his property. Of Walton's five children only one returned to the property: Samuel Heaton "Major" Phillips. Major was a well known figure in Healdsburg and was very active in the early days of the forming of the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society. Major and his wife Rena farmed the property, raising prunes. After their only son Thomas Miles Phillips was killed in Vietnam in 1968, they moved into town.

The middle son Samuel Edward "Ed" retained the adobe and surrounding property. Samuel and his wife Hannah Reynolds raised two daughters, Nell and May, and one son, Duvall. Nell and May had no children; descendants of Duvall's remain in the East Bay and Monterey Bay areas today. In the 1930s Ed sold the adobe and land to his great-nephew, D. D.'s great-grandson Leon Hendricks. Clarence and Floris Martin purchased it from Leon in 1950 and sold it to the Jasper Longs in 1968. Jasper and his wife

Melba have passed away and the property vests in a trust with the land operated by their children Sue and Rick Long.

The southerly portion was specifically retained by the third son, Oscar Frederick "Fred", as he saw it as the most productive of the three lots. Speaking of productive, Fred had 7 children, two dying at birth, two dying as adults with no children, and three (2 daughters and one son) living to adulthood and having children. The Eachus, Black, and Phillips lines sold, traded, gifted and bought more land in the valley. Today, the children of the Hollis and Pat Black family and Don and Pat Schmidt family still farm in Dry Creek Valley and many more descendants remain in Sonoma County.

By 2006, the descendants that have been tracked down number over one hundred and fifty and span from New Hampshire, Florida, Missouri, Texas, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, and California. At this point, only a few of George's descendants (mainly emanating from Missouri) have been traced. In June 2006 the Phillips descendants gathered for a celebration of 150 years of farming by Phillips in the Dry Creek Valley.



Photo of Adobe, circa 1950

Heaton's History

Samuel O. Heaton traveled overland to California in 1852 with the party of William J. McCloud and his wife Mary Carter Terry McCloud. After William died in the Gold Country, Samuel became the partner of D. D. Phillips, Mary's new husband. Then came the move to Sonoma County, the purchase and subsequent split of 137 acres, and Sam's farming of his 68 acres south of the adobe. In 1872, Sam returned to his home state of Illinois and married Rebecca Bullock and brought her back to his ranch. In the next

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eight years, Sam and Rebecca had four children: Mary Louise, Bessie, Bruce and Charles. Rebecca died in 1901 after a 2-week illness. Nothing is known about Bessie except that she died sometime before the death of Sam in 1908.

Daughter Mary Louise married Lind Hallengren in 1911. However, in 1917 she, her infant son Stanford, and another young girl were killed in an auto accident involving a collision with a train near Lytton Station. Bruce married, and then divorced, Ellen Augusta "Gussie" Lambert. She later married Fred Brandt. Bruce died in 1925 of "chirosis of the liver". In 1916 Charles married Bertha Bryant of Geyserville but died four years later in 1920. So there were no descendants of Sam and Rebecca Heaton beyond their children. Sam's property passed on to his sons, then out of the family after the deaths of Bruce and Charles. A portion of it is now under the ownership of the Mauritsen Family of Dry Creek Valley who has Hallengren ancestors! [RRR]

Tidbits from Newspapers & Elsewhere

1846 - Joseph Revere, grandson of Paul Revere, visits "Chino" at the Piña adobe

1853 - Burke Miles (uncle of Mary and Elizabeth Miles, the wives of Walton and Fred) attends first funeral in Healdsburg, that of George Heald.

1856 - Sam Heaton rides horseback into Hangtown for the doctor when P. W. "Walton" Phillips* is born

1869 - D. D. appointed Constable of Mendocino Township

1878 - In the *Russian River Flag* - D. D. loses a red canoe in the flood and asks for its return

1878 - G. Duvall Phillips kills a bald eagle, 6' wingspread

1879 - D. D. serves as Deputy Assessor of Sonoma County

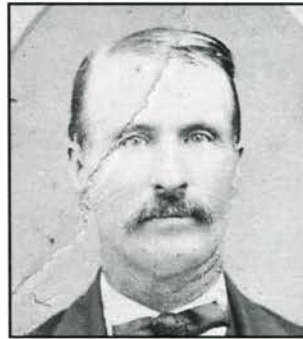
1900 - D. D. buys a lot in town - NE 1/4 of Lot 29 of Knaaks' Addition - on Sheridan (now Fitch) Street

1902 - Woodmen of the World place a monument on the grave of O. C. "Clarence" Phillips

1904 - S. E. "Ed" Phillips serves as Grand Marshal for the Floral Carnival in Healdsburg

1914 - O. E. "Fred" Phillips buys a "Cole" automobile

1928 - George W. Phillips, at the age of 83, marries his fourth wife, Emily Crowe



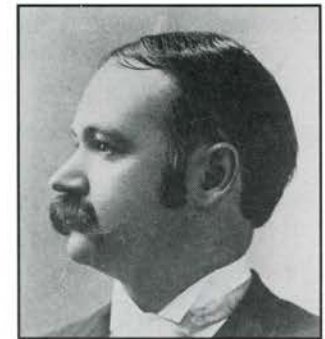
Duvall Drake Phillips



Mary Carter Terry Phillips



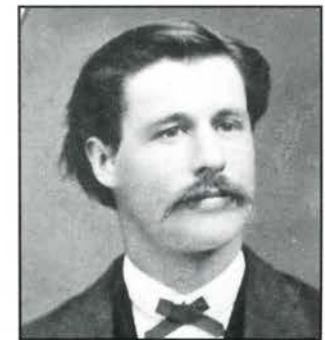
George Washington Phillips



Phillip Walton Phillips



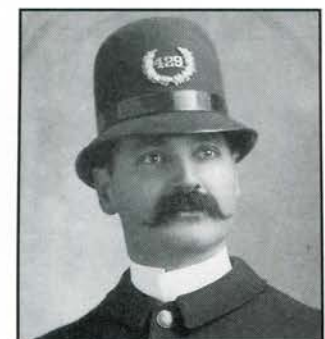
Oscar Frederick Phillips



Gabriel Duvall Phillips



Samuel Edmund Phillips



Oliver Clarence Phillips

RALPH WALDO ROSE

A GENTLE GIANT WHO CAST A LONG SHADOW

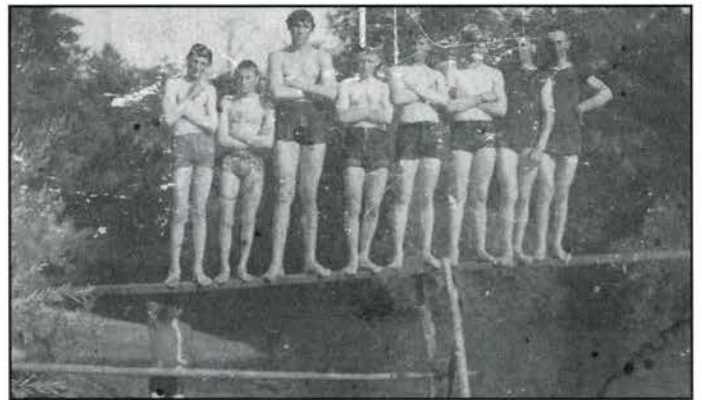
by Daniel F. Murley

The quiet rural community of Healdsburg was rocked by a double-barreled blast of bad news on the morning of October 18, 1913 as the bold headlines in the local newspapers told. The landmark building known as Fitch's Castle, the adobe core of which had been constructed in 1844 by Cyrus Alexander for Captain Henry Fitch, owner of the Sotoyome Rancho, burned to the ground. Also reported on the front pages Ralph W. Rose, an equally large, landmark figure, had been tragically laid low by the results of the burning fever of the Typhus bacillus and Typhoid Fever. The Fitch home had stood as a symbol of the early greatness and social prominence of Josefa Carrillo Fitch and her descendents and Ralph Rose had stood tall as an international icon in competitive sports.

Ralph Waldo Rose was born on Saint Patrick's Day, March 17, 1885 in Healdsburg, the son of Martha and prominent lawyer and Judge John Wesley Rose. He grew up in town in the Rose home on Center Street and though quite a popular youngster he stood out above his peers. His friends looked up to him not only for his speed and agility but also because at the beginning of the 8th grade he had already surpassed all his boyhood chums by a full six to eight inches in height and 50 pounds in weight. Ralph was not only an athletic lad, but a very tall and coordinated schoolboy.



Ralph W. Rose in prime condition at 19 years old at The University of Michigan - 1904



Ralph, third from left at the Russian River - 1898

It wasn't long before childhood games on the dusty downtown streets and playful runs followed by energetic swims in the nearby Russian River, turned to more focused training in the athletic arts of track and field at Healdsburg High School.



Ralph in center cradling shot with the Healdsburg High School Athletic Club of 1900

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Many of Ralph's accomplishments were captured on film by friend, class mate and teammate, Mervyn D. Silberstein.



Ralph and Mervyn together in 1909.

Mervyn's drawings, doodles and photographs often featured sports events and competitors like Ralph Rose and high-jumper Ed Beeson. There was great camaraderie amongst the accomplished athletes. World champion Beeson even attributed his then un-orthodox jumping style to consultation with and advice from Ralph.



While a sophomore in high school Ralph won the California state high jump championship with a record jump of 5 feet 10 and 1/2 inches. Though he excelled in clearing the bar his true calling was realized when he was a junior when he won the State shot put championship and in his senior year he became the first high school athlete to toss the 12 pound shot over 50 feet.

Ralph graduated from Healdsburg High School in 1904 and went on to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Through his academic

career he was involved in sports. At Healdsburg High he won State of California honors for the high jump and the shot put. A gregarious giant at 6' 5 1/2" and 250 pounds, Ralph was the first shot putter to break 50 feet. His world record of 51' 0", set in 1909, lasted for 16 years. In 1904, while at the University of Michigan he won both the shot put and discus at the Big Ten championships.

Unlike many of the talented local sports stars who went on to the University of California, Berkeley or Stanford University to continue their academic and athletic careers, Ralph decided to join the ranks of the vaunted Big-Ten sports powerhouse the University of Michigan who had recruited the high school phenomenon heavily. Another mitigating factor for attending Michigan was that J.W. Ralph's father was an alumnus.

At Ann Arbor he would join the likes of sprinter Archie Hahn, the "Milwaukee Meteor", fellow shot putter William Coe and world champions, pole vaulter Charles Dvorak and hurdler Fred Schule. All of these men would make the short trip from Ann Arbor to Saint Lois, Missouri for the 1904 Olympics.

Nineteen year old Ralph, the huge Californian dominated the field weight events in this the first of his three Olympic appearances, winning a gold in the shot put, silver in the discus, and bronze in the hammer throw.



Ralph in training at University of Michigan - 1904

He had tied fellow American Martin Sheridan for first in the discus, but ended with the silver after a "toss-off" landed a bit short of Sheridan's. Charles Dvorak won the pole vault gold medal and Fred Schule won a gold in 110 meter hurdles. Archie Hahn lived up to his colorful name by winning three gold medals in the sprints.

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Football season of 1904 found Ralph Rose on the practice field trying out for the mighty Wolverine eleven but apparently he was just not speedy enough to play for coach "Hurry Up" Yost's celebrated flash and dash, point-a-minute team

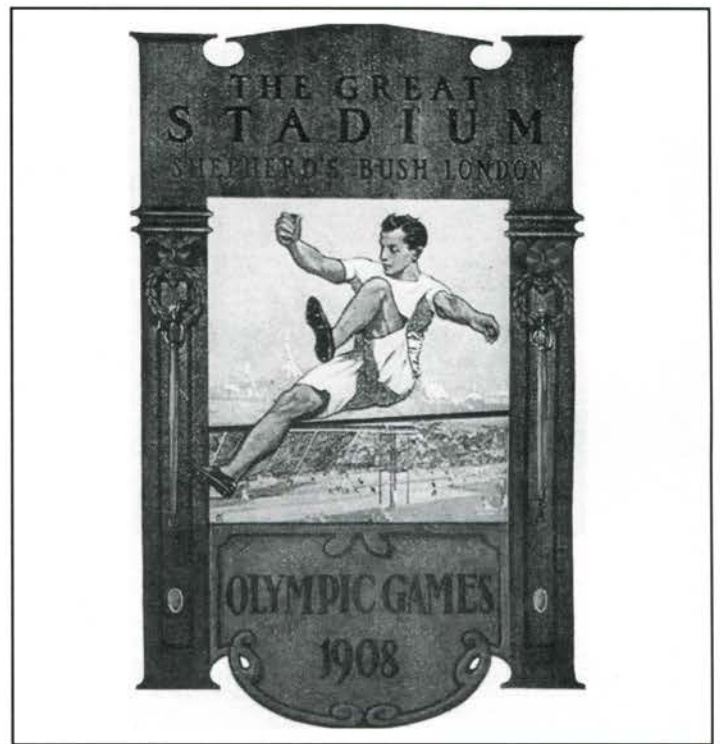


Pre-season workout for the University of Michigan Wolverines football team.
Ralph Rose standing 3rd from left.

After leaving the University of Michigan, Ralph returned home to Healdsburg and though he never did graduate from Ann Arbor, he studied for and passed the California State Bar examination and set out on his career with his father's law practice from the office on Matheson Street and eventually became Healdsburg's City Attorney. He subsequently competed for the Olympic Club in San Francisco California and won seven National American Amateur Athletic Union titles in the shot, discus and javelin. A competitor in three Olympic Games, Rose compiled a medal total of three golds, two silver and one bronze.

In London, England in 1908 he repeated as the shot put champion by throwing 46 feet, 7 and one half inches. Ralph was honored by the United States Olympic Committee to carry the flag during the opening ceremony. One source reports that Irish-American Ralph and his mostly Irish-American teammates were upset that few if any United States flags were displayed in the stadium and that the tension over status of the independence of the Republic of Ireland from England was present and palpable. The acrimony boiled over to action when Ralph Rose, refused to dip the boldly fluttering, new, 46 star, United States flag to the royal box, as other countries did.

The spontaneous, unrepentant Rose explained his action with the terse statement, "This flag dips to no earthly king." Several decisions by British judges went against American athletes during the games, and U. S. spokesmen felt they stemmed from bias, caused in part by the flag incident. To this day in the Olympic opening ceremonies the United States flag remains raised, a tradition most attribute to Ralph Rose's actions in 1908



In the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm, Sweden, he won the two-handed shot put (throwing a total of 27.70 m (90' 10 1/2") with his right and left hands), took second in the regular shot, ninth in the hammer and 11th in the discus. By this time Ralph had morphed from his svelte Michigan figure to a 350 pound shot putting behemoth.

Ralph continued to compete in track and field events for the Olympic Club of San Francisco. He eventually moved to the city in 1911 where he joined in a law partnership with Bert Cadwalader. In 1913 at a meet in San Francisco Ralph set a new world record for the 24 pound shot put when he tossed the enormous metal shot 39 feet 1/4 inch.



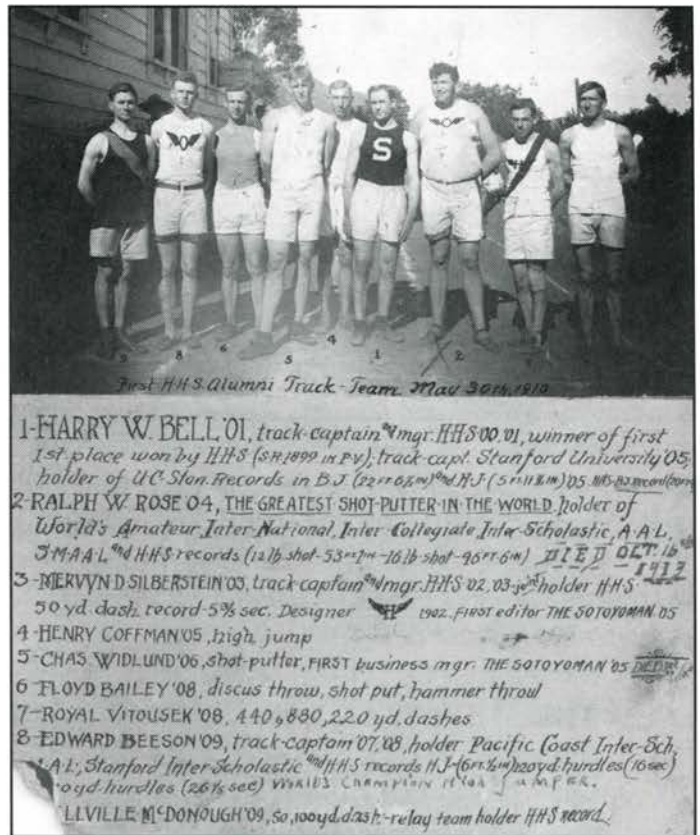
Hammer throw was not Ralph's premier field event.

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Ralph at the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm, Sweden.

It was while living in San Francisco and shortly after setting that record that Ralph was diagnosed with one of the deadliest curses of the age, Typhoid Fever, Salmonella Typhi. He battled the ravages of the extreme fevers and intestinal disorder and was cared for his sisters Alice and Ethel who were registered nurses, only to finally succumb at noon on Thursday August 18, 1913. He was honored by his home town friends and family and by all who witnessed his ascent to the highest peak of athletic achievement and performance. The flag was lowered to half staff at the City Hall and the California flag was lowered at the Healdsburg Parlor 68 of the Native Sons of the Golden West where Ralph had been a distinguished member. At graveside in Oak Mound Cemetery a quartet of local voices, Ben Ware, E.B. Deakin, Ray Welch and Dr. Edgar L. Morse sang hymns. The pall-bearers were C.L. Patterson and Fred Cummings (Elks Lodge), L.A. Wolf and T.A. Fitzpatrick (Olympic Club), Bert Cadwalader (Rose's law partner), Ed Beeson (friend and high-jump champion), Harry Emerson, Will S. Coulter, Clarence F. Lea, A.W. Garrett, E.M. Norton, Phil Ware, and Julius Myron Alexander. RRR



First Healdsburg High Alumni Track Team - May 30, 1910. L to R: Mellville McDonough, Edward Beeson, Floyd Bailey, Chas. Widlund, Henry Coffman, Harry W. Bell, Ralph W. Rose, Mervyn D. Silberstein and Royal Vitousek.

Sources:

- Barbieri, Darrell, Ralph Rose, Healdsburg Olympic Champion, *Russian River Recorder*, Issue 54, Summer 1996.
- Healdsburg Enterprise*, February 22, 1913. August 23, 1913.
- Healdsburg Tribune*, August 23, 1913.
- Russian River Recorder*, Dr. Ed Beeson, World Champion, Issue 53, Spring 1996.
- Sotoyome Scimitar*, September 1926.
- United States Census, 1880, 1900, 1910, Healdsburg CA.
- Wilfred Shaw Papers, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

The exhibit, "A Golden Age of Healdsburg Sport", honoring Ralph W. Rose, Edward I. Beeson, Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman, Mervyn Silberstein and other Healdsburg athletes of the early 1900's is being shown at the Healdsburg Museum at 221 Matheson St., Healdsburg. The exhibit will remain open until November 26, 2006.

“LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE LAND”

AN ORAL HISTORY WITH KATE MACMURRAY

from an interview with Holly Hoods, September 2006

Kate MacMurray, the daughter of actors Fred MacMurray and June Haver, looks back fondly on her 50 years of life on her family's Westside Road ranch, purchased from the pioneer Porter family in 1941. Kate's passion for preserving and sharing history has made her an enthusiastic supporter of the Healdsburg Museum. This November 11th, she is hosting an afternoon at MacMurray Ranch to benefit the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society.

Fred MacMurray's Twin Valley Ranch

I arrived at MacMurray Ranch when I was a week old. My family called it Twin Valley Ranch in 1956. My Dad developed a program at Twin Valley that was diversified farming. He had Rhonedale sheep for the wool, Rhode Island Red laying hens for eggs, Texas milking Shorthorns for milk and beef, Belgian warmblood horses to do the heavy labor at the farm, a huge garden, and orchards of pear, plum and apple. His diversified farming helped to support the war effort in WWII.

Later when we evolved into a Black Angus beef cattle operation, the farm became “Twin Valley Ranch.” When you are a beef operation, you're not a farm anymore, you're a ranch, and so that's when the name changed. And then of course when the Gallo family purchased the ranch from my family [in 1996], they planted the first vineyard. They called it “MacMurray Ranch” to honor my father, so that's how the name of the ranch has evolved.

Black Angus Babysitters

The MacMurray Ranch is 1,500 acres. The eyeline has changed a bit from the time I was a child. The lower valley was planted in orchards: pear, plum and apple. There were blackberries and wild raspberries. By the time I was born in 1956, Dad was already in the Black Angus cattle business. I remember Mom and Dad had built the nursery right off the kitchen, and every morning Laurie, my twin sister, and I would stand up in our cribs and look out this big bay window because the cattle were grazing in the back pasture. Mom was a bit shocked when our first words were “Moo,” or something to do with cattle, because we listened to them every morning! Mom said they were the best babysitters; we were always enthralled.



Fred MacMurray and June Haver with prize winning Black Angus

The Slow Reveal

Daddy designed the long, winding drive into the ranch. All the roads leading into the ranch were dirt roads. The road that the Porter family used, off of Westside Road, was a dirt road—easy access, flat. We used it as our working road. It was for cattle trucks and equipment. But Dad wanted a scenic entrance—what we call in film terms “a slow reveal,” where a little is revealed to you, and a little more and a little more, and suddenly the whole panoramic view is at your feet. Along this scenic road he designed and built the split-rail fences. Many of the trees intertwine along this road, and in the fall the road is covered in leaves and they crunch under your feet as you walk down the road to the mailbox. It's about a mile to the mailbox from the ranch house: a gorgeous mile in all the seasons.

Daddy used a landscape artist and a viewfinder. For those who don't know what a viewfinder is, photographers and cinematog-

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raphers use this when they are designing a shot. The road is cut in beautifully; it preserves the integrity of the pastures and the small hillside. This was done long before I was born. I grew up with all the stories told around the dinner table, how Daddy designed the split rail fences and the barns.



Laurie and Kate MacMurray at ranch in the early 1960's

“Wake Up, Girls, We’re Almost There!”

In the old days, before Interstate 5 was built, we’d drive up 101 and we’d always stop in Gilroy for a Frosty Freeze—you know, the dipped cone with the chocolate. That was the midway point. Driving the camper or the Ford Fairlane, it took 10, sometimes 12 hours to reach the ranch. As soon as we crossed the Golden Gate Bridge, if we were asleep, Dad would shout, “Wake up, Girls, we’re almost there!”

We would get that funny feeling you get in your stomach right before you are going to do something exciting or fun. Then we would take the River Road exit, then we’d take the Wohler, and then as soon we turned off Wohler Bridge, the beauty of the trees, the river, and the bridge takes your breath away. I still get that feeling to this day. Even if I’m going to Santa Rosa to the market, I come across that bridge and I still get that same feeling! It’s wonderful. The road hasn’t changed too much—there’s more traffic, of course, more wineries, but the trees, that look. . . And the [Wohler] bridge itself hasn’t changed. They built it in 1922, and they haven’t painted it since, have they? It’s charming.

We would always check to see where the [Russian] River was at different times of the year. It could be high or low. You could get a sense of the seasons by the levels. I learned to swim—wade first—in Porter Creek. We swam, fished and camped on the Russian River right at the bend, when you could. But every year

the river would change the bank, so we’d always go down as soon as we’d get here in the summer to see if we still had our fishing spot! Sometimes we did and sometimes we didn’t. When we were older we rode the horses down to the river to swim. They loved it.

Fond Memories

There is great joy in all my memories of the ranch. The other night I was sitting outside reading—the mosquitoes weren’t too bad yet—it had been a warm day, so you could smell the heat rising out of the ground. It brought back so many childhood memories of picking that wonderful corn and tomatoes; the smell of warm plums. It is the fragrance of summertime.

I remember the first time I learned to ride—what a day that was! I was sitting in front of Daddy on a saddle, on one of the quarter horses. (When you were a baby you sat in the front; when you got older you sat in the back, holding on.) We had to ride around and around in the paddock. Then came the red letter day when our parents told us, “Ok, you’re on your own, the ranch is yours,” but that wasn’t until we—my twin Laurie and I—were about 10 or 11. We still had to let them know where we were going—in case the horses came back without us, they’d know where to begin to look for us! We never had a television at the ranch, just a radio. My sister and I never had any trouble amusing ourselves!

Family Values

How did our parents transmit values to us? We learned from watching them interact with each other. They had tremendous respect for each other. Mom and Dad were always holding hands. I don’t remember an argument in the household between the two of them, and if they did I certainly wasn’t aware of it. They were respectful to their mothers—they took beautiful care of their mothers. They had lovely, lovely manners. When we would go out, Dad always spoke, shook hands and signed autographs for whomever came up to him. He was very courteous. He would take his hat off and hold it over his heart to sing the National Anthem at football games. He was brought up that way. But it was a different time. My parents appreciated courtesy in others too.

Trails and Springs

Dad put in our fire trails very, very early on after he purchased the ranch. The fire trails connected the ranch to Sweetwater [Springs Road], to the Old Redwood Highway and then to Eastside and Westside roads. If there was a fire, fire trucks, man power, and equipment could get to us. And if our neighbors needed help, the fire equipment could get to them through our fire trails.

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Dad also brought in a witcher—a dowser—to locate our springs. Of course you know dowsers have to select a branch from a tree on the property to make their divining rod. It has to be on the place where they are looking for water. Our dowser found all the springs on the ranch. It's quite a sight to see.

The ranch always had a herdsman, a ranch manager and a general maintenance man. We'd also hire an irrigator in the summer. It was a simple operation from a manpower point of view. For special events, a cattle sale or when we castrated, clipped hooves, tagged and branded, we brought in extra wranglers. Those were always loud, noisy, dusty, exciting days.

Good Friends and Good Food

My mom loved the ranch. She was more of a little city kid, although she was born in the Midwest in 1926 during the Depression era. Times were tough, and it wasn't an easy childhood, especially during WWII. On the ranch, she really loved to can. She and Daddy were great cooks. They loved entertaining friends and family. Joe Panick, who owned the Gualala Hotel, visited us often. Some celebrity friends—when Jimmy Stewart was in town filming a "Lassie" film out at Hop Kiln, he came to the ranch for dinner often.

Dan Barlow, who started the Barlow Apple Company, was a great friend of ours. He always helped us put in an annual garden and gave us lugs of apples to can, make pies and apple sauce. There's nothing better than hot apple sauce with a little brown sugar. We also made homemade ice cream. We'd milk in the morning—we had a Guernsey named Goldie. (One of her calves Daddy named "Laurie Kate" after us!) We pasteurized our own milk, made butter and cream. I still have the butter churn, but I made it into a lamp!

Selling the Ranch to Gallo

The Gallo family approached us [about buying the property]. We never met with a realtor. We never seriously met with anyone about selling the ranch, but when the Gallo family called and wanted to sit down and talk, we had a good feeling about it. We had a lunch meeting that went almost into the dinnertime, and by the end of the day, we had sold the ranch to the family. On a handshake actually! There were just six people. Mom was there, and Matt Gallo, his father Bob Gallo, our darling family attorney and our business manager/CPA. It was a very personal meeting.

The Gallo family, they're so dear. Bob Gallo, who's Julio's son, Gina and Matt's daddy, would always call to talk to us. He always would say "We're out at your Pop's place." Even though they had purchased the ranch, they still referred to it that way and they still do. It's very endearing. We're very connected. This love affair with the land, you know. [RRR]



Kate MacMurray



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